

## **HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE**

**BRAC BIT:** #62

**DATE:** 23 December 2009

**SUBJECT(S):** Route One Corridor Study, CYBER BITS

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Kent Menser (410-313-6521) kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

**1. Upcoming Events:** See BRAC BIT # 61!

**2. Discussion:**

### Route One Corridor Study

- a. Howard County is very fortunate that its Route One Corridor is in close proximity to Fort Meade and all the growth that will come to it during the next 15 years. With this in mind, the Business Department of Howard Community College (HCC), elected to make the study of the Route One Corridor a project for one of its classes. On 9 December, the class briefed the outcomes of the subject study to HCC Staff, the Howard County Government and several elected officials.
- b. When we receive an electronic copy of this study, we will make it available to those of you who may have an interest. The following are bullets from the Executive Summary: (1) Spark new growth through BRAC, (2) Route 1 corridor (general appearance), (3) Re-building, re-developing and re-establishing and (4) Three small communities.

**3. Cyber Bits:**

### **As attacks increase, U.S. struggles to recruit computer security experts**

By Ellen Nakashima and Brian Krebs, Washington Post Staff Writer Wednesday, December 23, 2009;

The federal government is struggling to fill a growing demand for skilled computer-security workers, from technicians to policymakers, at a time when network attacks are rising in frequency and sophistication. Demand is so intense that it has sparked a bidding war among agencies and contractors for a small pool of special talent: skilled technicians with security clearances. Their scarcity is driving up salaries, depriving agencies of skills, and in some cases affecting project quality, industry officials said. The crunch hits as the Pentagon is attempting to staff a new Cyber Command to fuse offensive and defensive computer-security missions and the Department of Homeland Security plans to expand its own "cyber" force by up to 1,000 people in the next three years. Even President Obama struggled to fill one critical position: Seven months after Obama pledged to name a national cyber-adviser, the White House announced Tuesday that Howard Schmidt, a former Bush administration official and Microsoft chief security officer, will lead the nation's efforts to better protect its critical computer networks. The lack of trained defenders for these networks is leading to serious gaps in protection and significant losses of intelligence, national security experts said. The Government Accountability Office told a Senate panel in November that the number of scans, probes and attacks reported to the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team has more than tripled, from 5,500 in 2006 to 16,840 in 2008. "We know how we can be penetrated," said Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), chairman of the Judiciary subcommittee on terrorism and homeland security. "We don't know how to prevent it effectively."

Indeed, the protection of critical computer systems and sensitive data, said former National Security Agency director William Studeman, may be the "biggest single problem" facing the national security establishment.....